

VERSION 1.0

Any changes will be noted here:

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Dear Moderator,

Let me begin by thanking all of you for making my fourth year as League Director a pleasant experience. I think the contests have run well. Our NCFL Membership Cards are in. We are one tournament away from concluding a very productive season.

However, as March approaches, it is important to recognize that there is a lot at stake at the upcoming contest.

On Saturday, March 8, 2008, the NYCFL will hold four separate tournaments at **Stuyvesant High School**. This is where I beg all of you to pray for some sunny warm weather!!!!

The tournaments are:

- The Team Debate Grand Tournament**
- The Lincoln-Douglas Debate Grand**
- The Speech Grand**
- The Public Forum Grand**

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE READ \*\*\*\*\*

**JUDGES:**

The Following is NEW.... PEASE READ CAREFULLY

It is our goal that all decisions that determine whether or not a student represents our league at the NCFL tournament are made by qualified judges that are making conscientious decisions. Therefore, ALL judges must be pre-registered a week and a half prior to the grand tournament.

Let me repeat that – ALL judges must be pre-registered a week and a half prior to the grand tournament.

That means that in order to register your team for the grand tournament, I must know the names of all judges by

**Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>.**

For each judge registered, I need 4 pieces of information.

- 1) The name of the judge
- 2) Any School or Student conflicts that judge may have
- 3) A list of tournaments that judge has seen (minimum of 2)

**\*\*\* Please – for my sake – do not overdo this \*\*\***

*If a person has been judging for 10 years,  
I do not need to know*

*EVERY contest that they have been to.*

4) Your personal appraisal of the judges abilities:

*A – Top Judge,*

*B – Good, Competent Judge,*

*C – New, Inexperienced Judge or a judge that you have some reservations about  
(please, save us the time and effort and do not bring those judges)*

**For DEBATE – All of this information should be entered into TABROOM !!!  
(enter in the comment section for the judges and set the appropriate grading)**

**For SPEECH – All of this information should be E-mailed to me at  
PRESIDENT@NYCFL.ORG**

All judges submitted will be reviewed by the executive council.

Your entries for the Grand Tournament will not be accepted until your judges are approved. In the event that a judge does not meet the league's requirements, the coach will be given an opportunity to find a replacement.

If a judge bails out then it will be the coach's responsibility to find a replacement of comparable quality and let me know as soon as possible.

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These contests are particularly important, as the Grand tournaments will determine our League's six entries in Policy Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum, and our 36 Speech Entries to the National Catholic Forensic League Grand National Tournament to be held in Appleton, WI over Memorial Day weekend.

**Logistics:**

(Please note the earlier starting time.)

**\*\*\* Registration will be held in the Lobby of Stuyvesant High School from 8:30 – 9:00  
a.m. \*\*\***

**General Information ALL Contests:**

**\*\*\* Please read the following information very carefully \*\*\***

**There are a number of procedural changes from our normal tournaments.**

School Fee:

In order to provide adequate judging, each school competing will be charged an additional \$10. This does not excuse schools from fulfilling their judging quota, rather it will ensure that the contest will run smoothly.

Drops/Adds/Changes:

Call me AT HOME (914) 739-2770 with drops as late as 10 PM on Friday night.  
There are NO ADDS after the pre-registration deadline has passed.

Prior to the Awards Ceremony:

The winner of the Rev. Gerald R. Rippon, S.J. Memorial Scholarship will be announced. I would urge you to encourage all of your speakers to remain for the presentation of this award after the semi-final round. The candidates for the award should be young men and women who deserve to receive the recognition of all of our league members.

Please get all applications into me by the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

[<Click Here for More Information on the Fr. Rippon Scholarship>](#)

After the Contest:

Ballots will be released only after the awards ceremony. Following the ceremony, there will be a very important meeting of all moderators of schools which qualify speakers, congresspersons, or debaters for the National Tournament. At this meeting, important information concerning the National Tournament will be discussed.

Contact Information:

*\*\* Please use the following Numbers Sparingly \*\**

- 1) HOME PHONE – (914) 739-2770  
Please Do NOT call After 10pm!
- 2) **Cell Phone – (914) 649-8246**  
Use if you have trouble getting to the tournament  
Use for last minute drops

Participation:

- In order to compete in the Speech Grand Tournament, speech schools must have participated in at least 4 speech tournaments and paid for a total of 15 entries.
- In order to compete in the Policy Debate Grand Tournament, the school must have competed in the December Debate Tournament. there is no minimum number of speakers required
- In order to compete in the LD Grand Tournament, the school must have participated in at least one of the LD tournaments. There is no minimum number of speakers required
- In order to compete in the Publid Forum Tournament, the school must be eligible to participate in at least one of the above tournaments.

- All team dues and outstanding fees up until January of 2007 must be paid in full. If you have questions about your current bill, please contact Mary Jane Truckenbrodt at St. Joseph Hill Academy

Hired Judges:

- There are no hired judges available
- Uncovered slots will have to be dropped

\*\*\*\*\* EVENT INVITATIONS \*\*\*\*\*

There is a lot of information (I know, I typed it). Please read it all very carefully. Some mistakes can be quickly corrected. Others may jeopardize your students' participation in this contest.

**The Debate Grand Tournament:**

Registration:

8:30 to 9:00 a.m.

*\*\* Note earlier than usual starting time \*\**

Entries:

Each school, which has met the requirements for active membership, may enter up to three (3) Debate teams, up to three (3) public forum teams and up to three (3) Lincoln-Douglas debaters. All competition is at the varsity level.

Resolutions:

**2007-2008 Policy Debate Topic**

***Resolved:*** *The United States federal government should substantially increase its public health assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa.*

**2008 March/April Lincoln Financial Group/NFL LD Debate Topic**

***Resolved:*** *Hate crime enhancements are unjust in the United States.*

**2008 March Public Forum Debate Topic**

***Resolved:*** *The US system of presidential primaries is contrary to democratic values.*

Judging requirements:

**Team Debate**

One judge per team

**L-D Debate**

One judge per speaker

**PF Debate**  
One judge per PF team

Please remember the importance of this contest when recruiting judges. All judges must be experienced, qualified adults.

**\*\* Please note \*\***

*League rules state that all judges must have judged at least three previous tournaments in the area in which they will be judging. (These tournaments need not be CFL contests.) Please make every attempt to provide judges who need not be constrained against other teams besides your own entries.*

***Judge Names and Qualifications MUST be provided on or before February 27<sup>th</sup>.***

***\*\*This policy is different from the rest of the year \*\****

Pre-Registration:

You may pre-register in one of two ways:  
ALL Debate Registration will be handled on [WWW.TABROOM.COM](http://WWW.TABROOM.COM)

Additional Comments:

- Please do not register students unless you are positive they will attend the tournament.
- There are no hired judges, if you cannot cover your judging requirement, then your students cannot compete
- If your school has been pooling judges during the year, that's fine. However, I need to know all judges and any constraints.
- If your judges are being supplied by someone else, tell me that when you register.

Fees:

- \$6.00 per student
- Please be certain that you have paid all other outstanding fees prior to this contest.

Tournament procedure:

- The tournament will run four (4) rounds.
  - The first two will be randomly paired, and schools will draw into the prepared schematic.
  - Round 3 will be paired high-low within bracket
  - Round 4 will be paired high-low within bracket
- Judges
  - All Team Debate rounds will be heard by two judges.
  - All L-D rounds will be heard by three judges.

- At the end of the four rounds, the six national qualifiers will be selected based on total number of ballots received during the tournament.
  - If there is a tie, it will be broken on ranks for Team Debate, and on points for L-D.
  - Under rare circumstance, a runoff round may be necessary.
- Contestants MAY be eliminated after Round 2 if they have not picked up any ballots
- Contestants MAY be eliminated after Round 3, if;
  - they cannot mathematically finish in the top 6
  - they would be certain to qualify even if they lost both ballots in Round 4 (they would BYE into nationals)

Swing Teams:

Any school which is already entering its full quota in Team, PF, or L-D may offer to provide the “swing.” In this way, there will be no ‘byes.’ The “swing” WILL NOT be eligible to win a slot to the national tournament. If you wish to offer a “swing” for the contest, please let me know when you register. I will draw from a “hat” to determine which school will provide each “swing,” and I will notify you on Wednesday evening, so that your “swing” can be prepared for the contest. Please be aware that the “swing” should arrive at the contest even if there are an even number of entries. A last minute drop on the morning of the contest would activate the “swing.”

If your school is providing a “swing” team,  
that school must be prepared to cover the entry with a judge,  
or the swing team will NOT be used

It would be helpful to the tournament, if the swing judge judged even if the swing doesn't swing.

Maverick Teams:

No Mavericks will be allowed at the Grand Tournament, even to prevent a ‘BYE’

Prep Time:

For all Debates will use the same prep times as those used at NCFL Nationals.

Forfeit Time:

Published schematics will indicate the time at which each round is to begin. If a team is not prepared to begin at that time, prep time will begin, and if prep time elapses, a forfeit will be declared.

Final Remarks:

- At the end of a Debate round, the judges should clear the room
- Judges must reach their decisions independently and absolutely no communication in any form of the judges’ decisions is to take place, either among the judges or between any judge and anyone else

- The judge must clearly indicate their decision on the ballot along with a clear RFD
- Judges must not reveal their decision to ANYONE at any time before the end of the tournament
- Be certain that your judges are aware of these rules

### **The Speech Grand Tournament:**

I am providing these reminders in order to prevent as many difficulties as possible. Your attention and cooperation are greatly appreciated. Speakers HAVE BEEN disqualified from the Grand Tournament. The guidelines below are intended to protect you and your speakers. They are not intended to be all-inclusive, but rather to highlight areas that may be problematic.

Also, if you have seen or heard a piece throughout the year that you deem may be in violation of the rules, please bring it to my attention PRIOR to the Grand Tournament. Disqualifying speakers at a National Qualifier is unpleasant to all involved and should be avoided if at all possible.

Please feel free to share this with your students and your judges.

#### 1) Manuscripts

- In Duo, DP, and OI, you must bring the original manuscripts (not just the cuttings that your students are using).
- If a cutting is challenged, it is up to you to be able to defend it, rather than the executive council's responsibility to prove it is illegal.

#### 2) Original Oratory

- Students must have a copy of the speech that matches the one that they are using in the rounds.
- Any words inside quotation marks must be highlighted and counted.
- Do not exceed 150 quoted words.

#### 4) Cuttings

- Cuts can be made for time and continuity only.
- No words can be added to the original text.
- Offensive language may be substituted with less graphic references (However at the National Grand Tournament, no word substitutions may be made at all!).

#### 5) Duo

- Presentations must be memorized
- Multiple Characters are Allowed, but not Required
- Students must remain standing (squatting and jumping is not permitted).
- Movement is allowed, but presentation must be delivered from center stage.

6) Drama

- Presentations may be from a published play or book.

7) Extemp

- Topic areas will be – Foreign, Domestic, Domestic Economic, Potpourri
- Use of NOTE CARDS is prohibited
- Foreign Economics will be used in the event a tie breaking round needs to be run
- Extemp draw will be done with individual topic slips (turn over 3 and select 1)

Registration:

8:30 to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

**\*\* NOTE EARLIER TIME \*\***

Categories:

Extemp (One Level Only)  
Original Oratory  
Oral Interpretation of Prose/Poetry (One Level Only)  
Duo Interpretation of Literature (Memorized, Multi-Character Allowed)  
Declamation  
Dramatic Performance

Entries:

Each school which has met the requirements for active membership may enter up to 18 entries, with no more than 3 in any one category.

**\*\* Please Note \*\***

A student who has qualified for the NYCFL Congress Grand, will forfeit that qualification by registering for this tournament.

Fees:

\$6.00 per speaker

Please be certain that you have paid all other outstanding fees prior to this contest.

Pre-Registration:

**\*\* Pre-Registration Deadlines Will Be Strictly Enforced \*\***

You may pre-register in one of two ways:

- 1) E-Mail me no later than 9:00 PM on **Tuesday**, March 4th at [President@NYCFL.ORG](mailto:President@NYCFL.ORG). (I will confirm e-mail registration with a one-word “received” reply)
- 2) Call me no later than 9 PM on **Tuesday**, March 4th at my school number – (914) 632-0714 EXT 351. (leave all necessary information on my answering machine)

Please provide the following information:

- 1) Your Name
- 2) A Contact Number or E-Mail Address

- 3) The School Name
- 4) The Number of Entries
- 5) Number of judges
- 6) Any and all judging conflicts must be brought to my attention

Judging Requirements:

You must provide one judge for every three (3) entries or fraction thereof. Please make every attempt to provide judges which will not have to be constrained against other schools. All judges must be qualified adult judges (college SOPHOMORES or older) who have judged at least two previous tournaments (not necessarily CFL tournaments). Because of the importance of this tournament, it is IMPERATIVE that all judges be of the highest quality. ALL judges must attend the judges' meeting on the morning of the tournament. But is it also the responsibility of the moderator to be certain that each judge provided is WELL BRIEFED BEFORE COMING TO THE CONTEST.

ONE qualified judge for every THREE entries or fraction thereof. If schools (especially ones with a small number of entries) could bring 1 more judge than their judging quota, the contest will run much faster. If there are not sufficient judges available, then semi-final rounds may have to be flighted.

A judge is qualified to judge at this tournament under NYCFL rules, if  
He or she is a college SOPHOMORE or older  
AND  
Is the coach of a program  
OR  
Has judged at least 2 prior tournaments  
OR  
Participated in forensics as a student

***Judge Names and Qualifications MUST be provided on  
or before  
February 27<sup>th</sup>.***

Tournament procedure:

The tournament will include three preliminary rounds with two judges hearing each round. The lowest of these six preliminary round scores for each speaker will be discarded, and on the basis of the five remaining ranks, the top 12 speakers will advance to a semi-final round. Each semi final round will be heard by three judges. Based on the cumulative total of their eight ranks, the top six speakers will qualify for the national tournament. There will be no final round held. However, in the case of an unbreakable tie, the tied speakers will be heard by three (or five, if possible) judges, to determine the winner of the national qualifier slot(s).

Extemp Topics:

Extemp topics will be based on current events since January 1, 2008

The Topic Areas for Nationals will be:

Domestic - Political

Foreign

Domestic - Social

Economics

International Organizations (in case a run-off round is required)

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions. Good luck to you and to your team at the contest, and I'll see you on the 8th.

Sincerely,

Charles J. Sloat Jr.  
President, NYCFL